



Sketches

Gualala Arts News • March 2006

PREPARATIONS FOR REDWOOD COAST WHALE & JAZZ FESTIVAL March 30, 31, April 1, & 2

The Fourth Annual Redwood Coast Whale & Jazz Festival, co-produced by Gualala Arts and the Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce, begins on Thursday, March 30, and goes through Sunday, April 2. Events will be held in Gualala and Point Arena. These are "Poetry & Jazz" on Thursday, March 30 at Point Arena CityArt; "Dinner & Jazz" on Friday, March 31 at St. Orres; "Brunch & Jazz" on April 2 at a place to be announced; and "Sunset & Jazz," April 2 at Oceansong; plus whale watching with talks by docents at Point Arena Lighthouse.

Yet the heart of the Festival will take place on April 1, no fooling! at Gualala Arts Center. Saturday's fun begins with the annual seafood **Chowder Challenge**, from noon to 3 p.m. This event is geared to all ages as local restaurants and individuals vie for the title of "Best Chowder" in two categories – Traditional

New England Clam, and a Seafood Open Class, with judging by a celebrity panel as well as a "People's Choice" vote and an award for "Chowder Most Tasted." There will also be a tasting of Mendocino and Sonoma County wines and Microbrews. Traditional New Orleans jazz will be performed by **Barnebey's Hot Four** of Sonoma County. This formidable combo consists of **Tom Barnebey**, cornet and trombone; **Carl Lunsford**, banjo and guitar (formerly with Turk Murphy's famous San Francisco band); **Marty Eagers**, string bass and ragtime piano, and **Robert Young** on reeds and cornet. They are great for New Orleans traditional dancing! The \$20 admission includes a choice of a commemorative Redwood Coast Whale & Jazz Festival beer or wine glass, plus 15 tickets that can be used for the chowder tasting, the wine and microbrew tasting, fresh-baked breads from local bakeries and other soft beverages. Visitors may purchase tickets for the chowder tasting alone, or additional tickets at \$1 each.

Saturday night tops off with The Main Event at Gualala Arts Center. The first set begins with **The Michael O'Neill Quintet** featuring San Francisco's renowned jazz vocalist and scat master, **Kenny Washington**, returning to the

festival by popular demand. One of the Bay Area's most sought after jazz groups, this quintet is composed of arranger/composer Michael O'Neill on reeds; U.C. Berkeley Jazz Band conductor **Steve Campos** on trumpet and flugelhorn (who toured with the stellar Woody Herman and Stan Kenton jazz orchestras in the mid-seventies); virtuoso L. A. based pianist **Michael Bluestein**, and the impeccable rhythm section of bassist **Peter Barshay** and drummer **Alan Hall**. Vibrapharp wizard, **Tommy Kesecker**, returns to the festival for his third appearance, joining The O'Neill Quintet for the second set following intermission. Fred Adler, Festival Music Coordinator, will emcee the concert.



Michael O'Neill & Kenny Washington



Tommy Kesecker
"Vibrapharp Wizard"

Doors open to the Jacob Foyer at 6:30 p.m. and to the auditorium at 7 for non-reserved, cabaret-style seating. New this year are a limited number of Main Event VIP Sponsor Tables for \$500 each that include admission and select seating for four, with four food and four beverage tickets, four beer or wine glasses, two autographed CD's and festival posters, and two festival logo tote bags. Sponsor tables must be purchased by March 15 for mention in the program. Regular admission is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, if available. **This event has sold out in the past.** Before the concert and during intermission, a martini bar with fine wines and microbrews, as well as gourmet savory and sweet Tapas plates by Gualala Arts' **Culinary Arts Guild**, will be served in the foyer.

For full details, including photos and bios of the artists, festival lineup, lodging packages and more, please visit the special website for this event at www.whaleandjazzfestival.com.

Advance sale tickets are available from Gualala Arts Center at 707-884-1138 where credit cards are accepted, and at the following local outlets: The Dolphin Gallery, the Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore, Violet's Boutique and The Sea Trader in Gualala.

